

Amendments to the Claims

Please cancel claims 1-14, 18, 23, 27, 29-31 and 33-59. Please amend claim 32 as follows. Please add new claims 61-69 as follows. The changes in these claims from their immediate prior version are shown with ~~striketrough~~ or [[double brackets]] for deleted matter and underlines for added matter. A complete listing of the claims with proper claim identifiers follows.

Listing of Claims

1-14 (Canceled)

15. (Previously presented) The method of claim 32 wherein the phase change material comprises a material that changes form a liquid to a solid due to a change in temperature.

16. (Previously presented) The method of claim 32 wherein the phase change material changes from a liquid to a solid due to a chemical reaction.

17. (Previously presented) The method of claim 32 wherein the phase change material comprises a thermosetting material or a thermoplastic material.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Previously presented) The method of claim 32 wherein the phase change material includes ceramic particles.

20. (Previously presented) The method of claim 32 wherein the phase change material has a coefficient of linear thermal expansion of less than 2×10^{-5} in/in/ $^{\circ}$ F throughout the range of 0-250 $^{\circ}$ F.

21. (Previously presented) The method of claim 32 wherein the phase change material has a coefficient of linear thermal expansion of less than 1.5×10^{-5} in/in/ $^{\circ}$ F throughout the range of 0-250 $^{\circ}$ F.

22. (Previously presented) The method of claim 32 wherein the phase change material has a coefficient of linear thermal expansion of between about 0.8×10^{-5} in/in/ $^{\circ}$ F and about 1.3×10^{-5} in/in/ $^{\circ}$ F throughout the range of 0-250 $^{\circ}$ F.

23. (Canceled)

24. (Previously presented) The method of claim 32 wherein the phase change material has a thermal conductivity of at least 0.7 watts/meter $^{\circ}$ K at 23 $^{\circ}$ C.

25. (Previously presented) The method of claim 32 wherein the phase change material has a dielectric strength of at least 250 volts/mil.

26. (Previously presented) The method of claim 32 wherein the phase change material has a coefficient of linear thermal expansion in the X, Y and Z directions, wherein the coefficient of linear thermal expansion is lowest in the X direction, and wherein the coefficient of linear thermal expansion in the Y and Z directions is no more than four times the coefficient of linear thermal expansion in the X direction.

27. (Canceled)

28. (Previously presented) The method of claim 32 wherein the body features comprise flanges, lips, grooves and connectors.

29-31 (Canceled)

32. (Currently amended) A method of manufacturing [[a]] base [[plate]] plates for [[a]] miniature hard disc [[drive]] drives comprising:

- a) providing a metal strip to be formed into a plurality of base plates; and
- b) feeding the metal strip continuously through an injection molding machine to sequentially injection mold a monolithic body layer of phase change material on one or more surfaces of the metal strip to form [[multiple]] said plurality of base plates for miniature hard disc drives, wherein said monolithic body forms body features on each base plate.

33-59 (Canceled)

60. (Previously presented) The method of claim 32 wherein the metal strip is used as a carrier.

61. (New) A method of manufacturing a base plate for a miniature hard disc drive comprising:

- a) providing a metal stamping to be formed into a base plate; and
- b) feeding the metal stamping into an injection molding machine and injection molding a monolithic body layer of phase change material on one or more surfaces of the metal stamping to form said base plate for miniature hard disc drives, wherein said monolithic body forms body features on the base plate conforming to either a Type I or a Type II compact flash memory device standard.

62. (New) The method of claim 32 wherein the metal strip has apertures which are located and configured in a manner such that they locate the base plate for subsequent steps in a manufacturing process of a hard disc drive.

63. (New) The method of claim 32 wherein the body features on each base plate including sidewalls, and each sidewall includes a longitudinal groove in the outside surface of the sidewall.

64. (New) The method of claim 63 wherein one of said grooves has a width of about 0.063 inches and the other of the grooves has a width of about 0.039 inches.

65. (New) The method of claim 64 wherein the grooves are manufactured with a tolerance of 0.002 inches in their width.

66. (New) A method of manufacturing a hard disc drive wherein a base plate is manufactured by the method of claim 32 and the base plate is then used to manufacture a hard disc drive.

67. (New) A method of manufacturing a base plate for a miniature hard disc drive comprising:

- a) providing a metal stamping to be formed into a base plate; and

b) feeding the metal stamping into an injection molding machine and injection molding a monolithic body layer of phase change material on one or more surfaces of the metal stamping to form said base plate for miniature hard disc drives, wherein said phase change material provides a vibration dampening in the range of 20-15,000 Hz of at least 2 decibels when compared to an all metal base plate.

68. (New) The method of claim 61 wherein the base plate has extractable particles greater than 0.5 micrometers in size of less than ten thousand particles per milliliter.

69. (New) A method of manufacturing base plates for miniature hard disc drives comprising:

- a) providing a metal strip to be formed into a plurality of base plates; and
- b) feeding the metal strip continuously through an injection molding machine to sequentially injection mold a monolithic body layer of phase change material on one or more surfaces of the metal strip to form said plurality of base plates for miniature hard disc drives, wherein said monolithic body forms body features on each base plate, each base plate being generally rectangular and the body features on each base plate including sidewalls along at least two opposite sides of the base plate.

Amendments to the Drawings

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figs 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6. These sheets, which include Figs. 1-6, replace all the previously submitted drawing sheets. Figure 1 has been labeled as "PRIOR ART". Figure 2 has been amended to show where Figure 3 is taken from. Figure 3 has been amended to conform to the specification and to show features discussed in the specification but not previously shown in the drawing. Figures 5 and 6 have also been amended to show features described in the specification but not previously shown or identified in these figures. Figure 6 has also been corrected in showing the placement of one of the items formed on the lid 111. The annotated sheets show the drawing changes based on the formal drawings mailed May 28, 2002.

Attachments: Replacement sheets 1-4

Annotated sheets showing changes